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Real Women Have Curves Worksheet

**1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.**

* The play takes place September 1987 in east LA, specifically in a factory. The main characters in this play are Ana, Estela, Carmen, Pancha, and Rosali. The play is about Latina Immigrants (some) trying to work to either make enough money to make ends meet or go to college, while also trying to avoid the migra.

**2. What is the *intrusion*?**

* I believe the intrusion of the play is the fact that the women all live in poverty, and none of them can reach their goals. For example, Ana wants to save money to be able to go to college, but she is only working in a clothing factory, and that dream seems too impossible. Estela wants to work to provide for her family, but is struggling to makes ends meet, and she obviously need money to start a process to establish some sort of legal residency in the U.S., but with the job she has, it also seems impossible.

**3. What is the *unique factor*?**

* I think the unique factor of this play is how all these women, with a large age range relate so much, whether is it’s emotionally and/or physically.

**4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?**

* Will these women prosper financially?
* Will Estella get a green card?
* Will Ana be able to attend a university?

**5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.**

* When Ana is arguing with her mother about what she should do about her future plans, it shows how it seems like she is obligated to do what her mom says as if she owes her life to her. This is a very common situation in immigrant families, where the parents either bring kids to this country or the come here and have kids here, but the kids have to either leave school or start working at an early age in order for them to help out their family. The scene where the women are describing/defining their definition of fat/overweight, seems very interesting. Some of the women do not car what anyone thinks about their weight, but some of them seem almost obsessed with their weight.

**6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.**

* I think the most theatrical moment is when the women start talking about their bodies. It shows their vulnerability and how much their insecurities have taken over their life. It is very emotional and its very relatable to how many girls feel even now.

**7. List some of the *themes* of the play.**

* Gender Roles
* Immigration
* Social Class
* Insecurities

**8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?**

* Ana wants to make enough money to be able to go to college. Estela wants to not be illegal in the U.S. Most importantly these women want to make enough money to support their family and not struggle economically. A lot of these women are also very insecure; they want to lose weight, not to make themselves feel better, but to attract men. They feel as if they are not skinny, they will not be able to attract any men and start a family.

**9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.**

* Most of the women in this play are described as being fat. I think when the title says “Real Women”, I interpret it as that women, who have experienced life such as stretch marks from having a child, are real women. It’s more about experiencing life than worrying about you look like.

**10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.**

* Ana and Estela: Siblings
* Carmen and Ana: Mother-Daughter
* Estela and Carmen: Mother-Daughter